

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 VO-05 CA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00
INSE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-13 AID-05 /040 W
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P R 020649Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1016
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSYNYANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, MY
SUBJ: DEVELOPMENTS BOAT REFUGEE SITUATION MALAYSIA

SUMMARY: BOAT REFUGEES FROM THAILAND HAVE ARRIVED IN MALAYSIA
IN CRAFT PROVIDED BY THAI AUTHORITIES. ASYLUM STATUS NOT GRANTED
THOSE REFUGEES. ACTION MAY SIGNAL CHANGE IN E. COAST ACCEPTANCE
POLICY. INCREASED THIRD COUNTRY INVOLVEMENT BOOSTS REFUGEE
MORALE. END SUMMARY

1. UNHCR EAST COAST REP REPORTED TO EMBREFUGEE OPERATIONS TODAY
THAT 745 VIETNAMESE BOAT REFUGEES ARRIVED AT EAST COAST LOCATIONS
DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER. HE STATED THAT THE NEW ARRIVALS
BRING THE CENSUS OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, ON THE E. COAST
ALONE, TO OVER 4,000. AMONG THOSE ARRIVING IN MALAYSIA DURING
NOVEMBER WERE PASSENGERS FROM TWO BOATS WHICH HAD BEEN PUSHED
OFF FROM FOUR THAILAND LOCATIONS. REFUGEES REPORTED THAT THEIR
BOATS, NUMBERED L.S. 88202 (101 PAX) AND KG 0895 (67 PAX)
BECAME DISABLED IN THAI WATERS. ONE WAS SAID TO HAVE ACUTALLY
SUNK. THAI OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY COMMANDEERED A LOCAL CRAFT AND,
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PUTTING ALL 168 PASSENGERS ABOARD, SENT THEM ON THEIR WAY.
REFUGEES FINALLY DISEMBARKED AT TRENGGANU, ON THE E. COAST
OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA.

2. UPON THEIR ARRIVAL ON NOVEMBER 26, THE REFUGEES WERE
REFUSED ASYLUM BY TRENGGANU STATE AUTHORITIES. THOUGH THE
REFUGEES HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO DISEMBARK AND HAVE BEEN

BILLETED IN THE SPRAWLING 2,000 POP.) BOAT REFUGEE CAMP AT PULAU BESAR, THEY ARE NOT CONSIDERED TO HAVE THE ASYLUM STATUS OF BOAT REFUGEES WHO HAD ARRIVE PRIOR TO THEM. WHAT THESE MOST RECENT ARRIVALS WILL BE CALLED, AND HOW THEIR TREATMENT MIGHT DIFFER FROM PREVIOUSLY ARRIVED BOAT REFUGEES, HAS YET TO BE DETERMINED. INCIDENT MAY SIGNAL A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE OF GOM TOWARDS BOAT REFUGEES. POST IS MONITORING SITUATION AND WILL REPORT DEVELOPMENTS.

3. UNHCR COUNTS 4,000 REFUGEES IN EAST COAST CAMPS AS OF END OF NOVEMBER. ARRIVAL OF AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICERS DURING THE WEEK HAS DONE MUCH TO BOUY MORALE AMONG THE REFUGEES. UNHCR REP FOINAT HAS INFORMED REFUGEES THAT THE FRENCH CONSUL WILL TOUR THE CAMPS THIS WEEK AND WILL SPEAK TO 280 REFUGEES CONCERNING THEIR PROSPECTS FOR RESETTLEMENT IN FRANCE. UNHCR ALSO EXPECTS THE CANADIANS TO VISIT CAMPS THIS MONTH WITH ANSWERS TO ABOUT 1,000 REFUGEES WHO HAD APPLIED FOR RESETTLEMENT IN CANADA.

4. POST COUNTS OVER 2,500 REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA WITHOUT U.S. OR THIRD COUNTRY ACCEPTANCE. THOUGH HOPES ARE HIGH FOR NUMEROUS ACCEPTANCES BY AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, AND CANADA, PROGRESS WILL BE MEASURED IN REFUGEES DEPARTURE RATE FROM K.L. IN COMING MONTHS. IN VIEW OF BOAT ARRIVALS HERE FROM THAILAND AND DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED IN TRENGGANU STATE, INCREASED HTIRD COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IS MOST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIMELY. UNHCR COORDINATION ABILITY WILL BE PUT TO THE TEST IF RESETTLEMENT OFFERS MULTIPLY AS THE RESULT OF INCREASED MULTI-NATIONAL PRESENCE IN CAMPS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: DEVELOPMENTS BOAT REFUGEE SITUATION MALAYSIA SUMMARY: BOAT REFUGEES FROM THAILAND HAVE ARRIVED IN MALAYSIA IN CRAFT PROVIDED BY THAI AUTHORITIES. AS YLUM STAT
TAGS: SREF, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
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